

FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM TELECONFERENCE

March 14, 2002

UPDATE ON SPRING 2002 TSP MEETING

Steve Hirsh (Region 3) provided an update on the Spring 2002 TSP meeting to be held June 3-6 at the Magnolia Hotel in Denver, CO. The tentative meeting agenda includes:

Monday, June 3:

- ◆ Indoor air workshop (addressing “vapor intrusion” into buildings) sponsored by the Ground Water Forum (full day)

Tuesday, June 4:

- ◆ Perchlorate training sponsored by the Federal Facilities Forum (morning)
- ◆ Forum business sessions (afternoon)

Wednesday, June 5:

- ◆ Mining presentations (morning)
- ◆ Mining site field trip sponsored by the Engineering Forum (afternoon)

Thursday, June 6:

- ◆ Plenary sessions with the ITRC (morning), and
- ◆ Forum business sessions (afternoon).

Forum members are requested to send suggestions for discussion topics to one of the Co-Chairs. Stacie Driscoll (Region 3) offered to present information on: (1) Headquarters’ current initiative to develop a national outlook on ground-water remedies; and (2) recent developments concerning institutional controls. Scott Marquess (Region 7) offered to provide an update on FUDS issues.

UPDATE ON FALL 2002 TSP MEETING

The Fall 2002 TSP meeting is scheduled tentatively for the first week of September in Orlando, FL, in conjunction with a national UXO conference. Forum members should contact Hirsh as soon as possible if the required Labor Day travel involved in this schedule precludes them from attending the meeting.

REGION 6 TECHNICAL ISSUES

Indoor Air Update

Cheryl Overstreet (Region 6) described a Region 6 initiative to evaluate indoor air issues and to develop risk-based values for determining the threat to indoor air posed by certain organic compounds in ground water and soil. The risk-based values derived by Region 6 were based on the Johnson-Ettinger model and site-specific data. The results of this initiative, which was a collaborative effort among Region 6 risk assessment staff, are available on the web at www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/ca/eis/vapor.htm. David Vogler (Region 6) clarified that the Region 6, RCRA, and Superfund risk values are not intended to supercede state values, where implemented. He suggested that Forum members also be aware of recent media publications concerning indoor air problems posed by contaminated soil and ground water (e.g., www.denverpost.com, [search for “Home, Deadly Home]).

Brooks AFB “City-Base” Project

Debra Tellez (Region 6) provided an overview of a Congressionally-directed pilot program underway at Brooks AFB to: (1) demonstrate more effective, innovative ways to operate installations for less cost; and (2) provide communities with a win-win alternative to BRAC that keeps jobs while allowing for economic development on underutilized federal property. The “City-Base” project at Brooks AFB, which was listed on the most recent “BRAC closure” list, involves continued employment for 3,700 persons and the retention of \$412 million within the City of San Antonio’s economy.

March 20, 2002

Through this project, Brooks AFB will become a 13-acre technology and business park, with the Air Force to remain as an anchor tenant. The newly-formed Brooks Development Authority will operate the park, with support from the city for municipal services such as police and fire protection. As one of the development team partners, Region 6 provides technical assistance and regularly participates in team meetings and teleconferences. Proposed federal legislation would enable this approach to be used for re-use at DOD installations nation-wide.

OPEN MIKE

Marquess discussed recent changes to DOD's DERP guidance (*Management Guidance for Defense Environmental Restoration Program*) that impact RD/RA projects costing more than \$750,000. The guidance has been revised to indicate that these projects are to be classified as MILCON projects managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. (MILCON projects are subject to regulations in 10 USC 2810, which requires specific Congressional approval for projects exceeding certain dollar thresholds.) Members commented that implementation of this approach is impeding progress at DOD sites significantly.

Marquess also noted that Sylvia Lowrance, Acting AA for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance, was scheduled to testify before the U.S. Congress on March 14, 2002. The hearing addressed whether the military's compliance with environmental laws adversely impacts its military readiness, including encroachment on training facilities, monetary costs, and training capabilities.

ATTENDEES

Stacie Driscoll, Region 3
Steve Hirsh, Region 3
Jim Barksdale, Region 4
Felicia Barnett, Region 4
Robert Pope, Region 4
Laura Stankosky, Region 6
Debra Tellez, Region 6
Cheryl Overstreet, Region 6
David Vogler, Region 6
Scott Marquess, Region 7
Robert Weld, Virginia DEQ
Randall Ross, ORD/Ada
Sandra Novotny, EMS, Inc.